

HC Issued Directions To Stop The Misappropriation Of Deposits From The Court Accounts

HYDERABAD: Taking serious note of the large-scale misappropriation of land acquisition compensation amounts that were deposited in the Civil Court Deposit (CCD) accounts in the District Judiciary, the Telangana High Court has directed the Registry to institute a stringent annual audit and reconciliation mechanism across district courts that handle the deposits. The court's instructions also included the yearly reconciliation of books of accounts and the comparison of the CCD account statements with registers and D-forms issued by the land acquisition officer at the time of the deposit. The Civil Court concerned must update the record every year and forward the compli-



ance report to the Principal District Judge concerned, and the High Court Registry. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 A division bench comprising Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda issued the directions while dealing with a writ petition filed by Kurva Hanumanthu, a project oustee, whose compensation amount was withheld owing to the expo-

sure of a multi-crore court deposit scam in the Court of the Principal Senior Civil Judge, Gadwal. Hanumanthu's land of about 7.12 acres was acquired in 2008 for the construction of Ryalampad balancing reservoir. The land acquisition officer did not pay him the compensation amount due to a dispute over the title of the land. The money was deposited at the Civil Court at Gadwal in 2012.

PM Modi to Launch ₹9,400-Crore Development Projects in Telangana

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad to lay foundation stones, inaugurate and dedicate multiple development projects worth around ₹9,400 crore, aimed at strengthening infrastructure, logistics, healthcare and industrial growth in Telangana. Among the key projects, the Prime Minister will launch the four-laning of National Highway-167 from Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar on the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor. The ₹3,175-crore project is expected to improve road safety, reduce travel time by nearly 90 minutes and enhance connectivity between Telangana and Karnataka. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 He will also lay the foundation stone for the



Zaheerabad Industrial Area in Sangareddy district under the Hyderabad-Nagpur Industrial Corridor. Spread across 3,245 acres with an investment of over ₹2,350 crore, the smart industrial township is expected to attract investments worth nearly ₹10,000 crore and create large-scale employment opportunities. In Warangal, the Prime Minister will inaugurate

the PM MITRA Park, also known as the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, developed at a cost of around ₹1,700 crore. The project is India's first fully functional PM MITRA Park and aims to strengthen the textile value chain under the Centre's "Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign" vision. Also Read - Student From Hyderabad Dies Of Electrocution At IIT-Patna Campus During

Farewell Visit As part of railway infrastructure expansion, projects worth around ₹1,535 crore, including sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada multi-tracking corridor and the Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass, will be dedicated to the nation to improve freight movement, operational efficiency and passenger services. Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate Indian Oil's Malkapur Terminal

Project in Hyderabad, developed at a cost exceeding ₹600 crore, to strengthen petroleum storage and distribution capacity in the region. Also Read - Doctor Killed in Car-School Bus Collision Near Kalwakurthy In the healthcare sector, the Prime Minister will dedicate Sindhu Hospital, a state-of-the-art cancer-focused multi-specialty institution in Hyderabad. The 1,500-bed hospital is equipped with advanced treatment and diagnostic facilities across more than 33 super specialities. The projects are part of the Centre's broader vision of "Viksit Telangana for Viksit Bharat," focusing on integrated infrastructure development, economic growth and improved public services.

Govt Restores Independent Status for Sathya Sai Water Project

Anantapur: The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to operate the Sri Sathya Sai Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme independently following concerns over its maintenance after it was recently handed over to the Anantapur Zilla Parishad. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took the decision during the ongoing collectors' conference, directing officials of Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai



districts to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the project, which serves as a lifeline for lakhs of people in drought-prone Raya laseema. e Procurement From Andhra Pradesh The three-decade-old drinking water scheme, launched in 1997 by

spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba, was designed to address chronic water scarcity in the region, where groundwater resources are limited and villages frequently face acute shortages. The project has since expanded significantly and currently supplies drinking water to 1,341 villages, benefiting around 16.41 lakh people across Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday underscored the need to develop infrastructure in line with the growing urban population. "We are trying to make Hyderabad a traffic-free city and we are moving forward with plans to make Hyderabad a signal-free city," he said, stating that with modernization and urbanization, the city will have to face more new challenges in the future. Speaking at the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on



housing and urban affairs, he said the State government has also decided to bring a three-level system of underpass, surface, and elevated. "Mere expansion

of roads is not enough to control the traffic. There is a need to develop a multi-transport system," he said. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad

Crime in 2025 "To overcome the parking problems, we are setting up multi-level parking in the city. We have made plans to develop the state into three parts - CURE, PURE, and RARE," he explained. According to the Chief Minister, the CURE area on the Outer Ring Road has been identified as the service sector while the PURE area outside the ORR and inside the Regional Ring Road has been identified as the manufacturing sector. Also Read - Student From

Hyderabad Dies Of Electrocution At IIT-Patna Campus During Farewell Visit The RARE area outside the RRR has been identified as the agriculture sector. "We have unveiled the Telangana Rising-2047 Master Plan for the comprehensive Telangana. We are going to develop the Musi Riverfront and connect it to our culture. We are taking steps to control pollution in the city," he said. As part of this, the State government is introducing EV buses in RTC.

Mamata Tweaks Social Media Bio After Losing Bengal Power to BJP

Kolkata: Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday updated her social media profiles on X and Facebook, dropping the "Honourable Chief Minister" designation and identifying herself instead as "Founder Chairperson All India Trinamool Congress. Chief Minister of West Bengal (15th, 16th and 17th Vidhan Sabha)", hours after BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the state's new chief minister. Also Read - Carbon Credit: Study Finds Underground Treasure Of Delhi's Forests The bio changed on a day BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari was sworn in as the chief minister after the saffron party trounced the Trinamool Congress in the elections for the 18th West Bengal assembly. Banerjee, who led the All India Trinamool Congress to power for the first time in 2011, ending the 34-year Left Front rule in the state, had been the leader of the House in the three previous assemblies. Also Read - India Conducts Flight Trial Of Advanced Variant Of Agni Missile Notably, Banerjee avoided using the word "former" in her updated social media bio. Her profile change came after criti-



cism on social media over her continuing to identify herself as Chief Minister even after the election results were declared. Despite the TMC's electoral defeat, Banerjee did not resign as Chief Minister after the poll results were announced, alleging irregularities in the election process and claiming that discrepancies and manipulation in nearly 100 seats contributed to her party's loss. Also Read - ED Arrests Punjab Minister Sanjeev Arora in Money Laundering Case Senior TMC rges rejected by the Election Commission of India and t "on the streets" and would return there again. Banerjee ceased to hold office after Governor R. N. Ravi dissolved the Assembly following the completion of its five-year term on May 7.

Cyberabad police holds coordination meeting with bankers to curb rising cybercrime losses



Hyderabad: The Cyberabad police on Saturday conducted a coordination meeting with bankers working with different banks. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination between banks and law enforcement agencies for faster and more effective action in cyber crime-related cases, particularly issues related to mule accounts, freeze and de-freeze procedures, refunds, and digital fraud investigations. Addressing the gathering, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh said cyber crime has

become one of the most serious threats in society, with many people losing huge amounts of money through online scams, fake investment schemes, pre-launch offers, call centre frauds, cryptocurrency scams, and other digital frauds. He said several victims have lost their life savings, causing severe financial distress to families. He added that cyber fraud losses in Cyberabad amounted to Rs.438 crore in 2025, while losses of around Rs. 104 crore have already been reported in 2026 so

far. The Cyberabad CP stressed the importance of securing banking data, stopping mule accounts, and ensuring timely support to cyber crime investigations. He urged banks to establish dedicated and centralized cyber cells for quick response to complaints and better coordination with police. He also appealed to the public to remain alert, verify offers before investing money, immediately report suspicious activities, and avoid assisting cyber criminals knowingly or unknowingly.

Harish Rao demands immediate Medigadda repairs, calls Tummidihatti visit publicity stunt

Hyderabad: Calling the Congress Ministers' visit to Tummidihatti a publicity exercise, BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao demanded that the Congress government immediately repair the Medigadda pillars and ensure irrigation and drinking water supply. Speaking at a press conference in Siddipet on Saturday, Harish Rao said the government should prioritise Medigadda repairs in view of warnings about a possible drought due to the El Nino effect. Referring to Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy's statement that an agreement had been reached to construct the project at a height of 150 metres, Harish Rao questioned why no major works were taken up during the Congress rule in the undivided State if such an agreement already existed. "It has been two and a half years since the Congress government came to power in Telangana. Why



has it not initiated substantial works at Tummidihatti in the last 30 months?" he asked. Harish Rao said former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan had earlier written to then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy stating that works were being pursued unilaterally without an agreement with Maharashtra. He said the Maharashtra government had warned in the letter that such efforts would ultimately prove futile. The BRS MLA accused Congress Ministers of making contradictory statements and misleading the public. He pointed out that Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao had stated that water would

flow to Yellampalli through gravity, while Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy spoke about diverting water to the Sundilla barrage. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, on the other hand, had said water would be from Tummidihatti to Yellampalli through a lift irrigation system. He said issues involving neighbouring S alleged that the Congress government had failed to resolve environmental and legal hurdles linked to Tummidihatti, including issues Sensitive Zone, forest land concerns and a pending Supreme Court case, despite repeatedly mentioning the project in its election manifesto.

Hyderabad police register POCSO case against Bandi Sanjay's son

Hyderabad: In a development that is bound to generate intense political heat, a criminal case of sexual assault on a minor girl was registered against Bandi Bhagirath Sai, son of Union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay, in Petbasheerabad police station limits in the city. The registration of the case under provisions of the stringent provisions of the POCSO Act came to light on Saturday, even as Bandi Bhageerath lodged a case against the girl and her parents, accusing them of trying to extort money from him in a police station in Karimnagar commissionerate. Case booked against Bandi's son for abusing, assaulting fellow student. Another video of Bandi's son assaulting student resurfaces. The case against Bandi Bhageerath was registered after the minor victim, aged around 17 years, approached the Petbasheerabad police along with her parents and lodged the complaint. She alleged that Bhageerath Sai had



touched her inappropriately on December 31 last year in a farmhouse at Moinabad after forcing her to consume alcohol, despite her objections. The Petbasheerabad police confirmed the registration of the case. "Based on a complaint, a case is registered under the POCSO Act, and an investigation is going on", Petbasheerabad Inspector K Vijaya Vardhan said. The registration of the case under the stringent provisions of the POCSO Act came a day before the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Hyderabad, with the BJP mak-

ing massive arrangements for a public meeting to be addressed by Modi. In addition to this, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, father of the accused person Bandi Bhageerath, is already embroiled in another controversy over the attack on Karimnagar MLA's office and on BRS legislator Padi Kaushik Reddy in Karimnagar two days ago. The BJP workers attacked the MLA's office when Padi Kaushik Reddy was inside, allegedly provoked over some statements made by Kaushik Reddy against Bandi Sanjay. The BRS has

mounted a scathing criticism against Bandi Sanjay, accusing him of engineering the Karimnagar attack. In the counter case registered against the girl and her parents, Bandi Bhageerath alleged that the family was trying to extort Rs 5 crore from him and that they made these demands for payment of money.

He maintained in his complaint that he had already paid Rs 50,000 to the family. He stated that the girl's family befriended him and that he had visited different temples and attended family functions also.

Jagan Accuses Naidu Govt of Using Police Machinery to Suppress Dissent

Amaravati: YSRCP supremo Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of using the police machinery as a political tool to suppress dissent, curb freedom of speech, and target political opponents. Although Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech—"one of the most sacred and non-negotiable pillars of democracy"—the opposition leader alleged that this fundamental right is being subjected to a dangerous, systematic, and deeply disturbing assault under the TDP-led coalition government. However, there was no immediate reaction from the TDP.

Bureaucratic Reshuffle: IAS Officers Transferred In Andhra Pradesh "Hello India! AP (Andhra Pradesh) CM N Chandrababu Naidu has been using the police department as his political tool to curb dissent, suppress opposition voices, and systematically curtail freedom of speech in Andhra Pradesh (sic)," Reddy claim. "failures, hypocrisy, corruption, and anti-people governance" of the TDP coalition. Reddy claimed that the modus operandi has become "frighteningly clear and predictable", beginning with TDP leaders and their affiliated supporters "continuously filing politically motivated



complaints" against social media posts, videos, comments, and so, the YSRCP chief said, alleging that the police department itself was sending notices to social media platform X and other platforms, demanding the removal of content critical of seeking the "blocking or suspension of accounts that expose government failures or question those in power." Also Read - Mild Earthquake Triggers Panic censorship campaign clearly demonstrates how the Naidu government is using the police department as its political enforcement machinery to control public discourse, crush dissent, and suppress democratic expression," Reddy alleged.

SHG Products to Reach Offices Across AP

Vijayawada: In a push towards women's economic empowerment, the Andhra Pradesh government would promote products manufactured by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in government offices across the state. This decision follows a proposal made by NTR district collector Lakshmisha during the collectors' conference. Responding positively, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed the chief secretary to issue appropriate official guidelines to ensure that government departments give preference to SHG-made products and office-use materials. Also Read - Bureaucratic Reshuffle: IAS Officers Transferred In Andhra Pradesh Collector Lakshmisha suggested that government offices procure commonly used stationery and office mate-



rials such as files, pens, pencils, paper and other consumables from women's Self-Help Groups. This would provide rural women with a steady source of income while simultaneously creating a sustainable market for locally manufactured products. The CM asked officials to frame guidelines to facilitate procurement from SHGs in government establishments. Also Read - Naidu, Pawan Kalyan

Congratulate Suwendu Adhikari on Swearing-in as WB CM. The collector said institutional support from the government for SHG products would not only strengthen rural women economically but also encourage local entrepreneurship and small-scale manufacturing. He described the decision as another important step towards women's financial self-reliance and empowerment. The initiative aligns with the state gov-

ernment's flagship "One Family-One Entrepreneur" programme aimed at encouraging self-employment and rural enterprise development. Also Read - Andhra CJ Inaugurates New Court Complex in East Godavari. The NTR district administration has established a dedicated RISE centre at Guntupalli village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal. The centre is conducting workshops and training programmes for SHG women in various manufacturing and service sectors while also creating awareness about modern marketing opportunities. Officials said SHG women are being encouraged to manufacture high-quality products and explore entrepreneurship opportunities through skill development and market linkage support.

Trees Uprooted, Crops Ruined In Flash Rains

The flash rains on Sunday wreaked havoc in several districts of Telangana. Rains accompanied by lightning and gusty winds ruined crops at various places and a hamali Neelam Venkanna, 42, died after being struck by lightning while working at the IKP purchasing centre in Sudanapalli in Mahabubabad district. He suffered serious injuries and died on the spot after being struck by lightning. Paddy spread on roads for drying and other crops shifted to the agricultural markets was spoiled. Mango orchards were also damaged due to the gusty winds, causing loss to many farmers. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025. In Mahabubabad district headquarters, maize and paddy brought to the agricultural market yard was damaged after getting



wet in the rain, despite farmers trying to protect by covering the heaps with tarpaulins. At Nelkondapalli mandal headquarters in Khammam, maize brought to the purchasing centres got wet in the rain. In Khammam city, Chintakani, Wyra, Karepalli and Kusumanchi mandals,

paddy kept for drying was damaged in the rain. Also Read - Hyderabad: Married Woman, With Son's Help, Kills Lover At Illendu agricultural market yard in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, maize bags stored for sale got wet in the stagnant rainwater. In Nalgonda district, trees and electric poles

were uprooted, tin roofs on sheds flew off under the impact of the high speed winds. At Kyatanpalli Baldia in Mancherial district, many trees were uprooted and fell on the roads disrupting traffic for hours. Power supply was also disrupted for several hours due to the gusty winds.

JB IET and Bhaskar Engineering College celebrate Placement Day 2026

Hyderabad: JB Institute of Engineering and Technology and Bhaskar Engineering College, Moinabad, celebrated Placement Day 2026 at the MNR Open Air Auditorium, JB IET Campus, Hyderabad, recognising the outstanding placement achievements of the graduating batch. Richard King Chatragadda and Yogesh Goutam attended the event, which was also attended by representatives from leading companies including Broadridge, Virtusa, Bosch Global Software Technologies, and Cognizant Technology Solutions. Speaking on the occasion, J V Krishna Rao stated that more than 740 students secured placements this year and highlighted that



JB IET achieved over 3,750 placements between 2022 and 2026. The colleges recorded more than 900 placement offers with a 95 per cent placement rate, while another 5 per cent of students opted for

higher studies, resulting in an overall success rate of 100 per cent. Around 40 companies participated in the placement drive and the highest package offered was Rs 15 lakh per annum by Rocketgenie, while the

average package stood at Rs 5 lakh per annum. Major recruiters included Amazon, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Foxconn, Kia India, HCL Technologies, and Cognizant.

Telangana Seeks Incentives for Bharat Future City; Proposals Sent for Centre's Review

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has submitted a proposal for Hyderabad Green Pharma City, popularly known as Bharat Future City for incentives. The proposal has been assessed and submitted to the Department of Expenditure, for further necessary steps, said Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu. He said this in Rajya Sabha while responding to a question raised by Congress MP Renuka Chowdhary on Central assistance to Bharat Future City project in Telangana. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025. She sought to know whether the Central government is aware of the proposal of the Telangana government to develop Bharat Future City, envisaged



as a net-zero, next-generation urban centre; She wanted to know whether the government has received any proposals or requests from the State government seeking Central assistance, the policy support or clearances for the said project and whether any financial, technical or institutional support has been extended or is under consideration of the Central Government for the development of

Bharat Future City. Also Read - Cyberabad Police Orders Closure of Wine Shops, Bars for Hanuman Jayanthi. In his response, the Union Minister said that as per 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India, urban planning including urban development is the function of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Urban Development Authorities. The Central government supplements the efforts of the

States through schematic interventions and advisories. The Ministry also supports States and Union Territories in strengthening the urban planning ecosystem including promotion of planned greenfield urban development, through initiatives such as the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SSASCI). Under SSASCI 2025-26 Part X Urban Planning Reforms - Theme Based Greenfields Cities Component, the Telangana government has submitted a proposal for Hyderabad Green Pharma City (popularly known as Bharat Future City) for incentives. The proposal has been assessed and submitted to the Department of Expenditure, for further necessary steps, he added.

Karnataka Alert On SIR Process, Seeks To Avoid 'Bengal-Like' Controversies

Bengaluru: Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara, speaking to the media on Saturday, said, "In our state as well, the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process will begin. We also need to be careful. Anything that happened in West Bengal should not be allowed here." "This is our opinion, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has already held a meeting regarding the matter. Mapping has already been completed in some places, while in others it is still pending," he said. He said, "Yesterday, I was invited to a meeting regarding the SIR, but I could not attend due to various reasons. In West Bengal, many people claim that the government lost power because of alleged SIR manipulation. Analysts say that due to such manipulation, the BJP won nearly 100 seats by margins of around



5,000 votes." "This should not be allowed in Karnataka and we are careful," he added. "Probably, there will be more clarity after a few days. Once the process is completed fully, a clear picture will emerge," he added. "We have already given instructions to our party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs)

regarding monitoring the process and holding discussions with Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Additions and deletions in the voter list have to be monitored carefully. The party has conveyed all these directions to the BLAs, and they will carry out the work," he stated. Speaking about the preparations for the mega event

in his native Tumakuru city to mark the completion of three years of the Congress government, Parameshwara said, "Through the Revenue Department, decisions have been taken across the state regarding pahanikhata, property documents and revenue village records, and lakhs of people have received land records in their names. This can be described as a major achievement of the Karnataka government." "In continuation of this initiative, property documents will be distributed to 1.40 lakh people under the programme that has been planned," he said. "We had not imagined that the Congress government

would soon be completing three years in office. However, after May 20 was suggested to the Chief Minister's Office, and everything fell into place. Since the swearing-in ceremony was held on May 20 and the government came into existence on that day, it has been decided to celebrate the occasion as the completion of three years of the government," he added. "More importantly, this is primarily a programme of the Revenue Department," he said. "More than 50 per cent of the assurances promised in the manifesto have already been fulfilled. There is also a need to review this achievement," he added. Responding to a question on a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Parameshwara said, "It is the decision of the party high command. I have been repeating this to the media time and again."

Bandi Sanjay's Son Booked under POCSO, Files Counter-complaint of Extortion

Hyderabad: A case under POCSO Act was registered against Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son here following allegations of sexual harassment of a minor girl, with the accused alleging extortion and criminal intimidation by the teen and her parents. According to the 17-year-old girl's mother, Sanjay Kumar's son Bhageerath, who was in a relationship with her daughter, sexually harassed her. The alleged relationship began about seven-eight months ago, police said. They are yet to examine the girl, who is a student. Meanwhile, Bhageerath complained to the police in Karimnagar that the girl who got



acquainted to him, invited him to her family functions and group gather-

ings. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025

An FIR was registered based on the complaint. Bhageerath said in the

complaint that, believing the girl's family to be trustworthy, he accompanied them and visited some holy places, as part of a friends group. Subsequently, the girl and her parents intimidated him to marry her, but he rejected the proposal, following which the girl's parents demanded money and false complaints if he failed to pay the amount. Out of fear, he paid Rs 50,000 to the girl's father, but they demanded Rs five crore. If he failed to comply, the girl's mother would commit suicide, Bhageerath alleged in his complaint.

CM Promises Solutions to Vijayawada Issues, Says Kesineni Chinni

Vijayawada: Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath has said public representatives from Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency, along with the district collector, had jointly taken several civic and infrastructure-related issues to the chief minister recently. "The CM has responded favourably to our pleas and promised early solutions to all the pending matters," the MP said. Participating in a Praja Darbar organised in the 45th Division of Vijayawada West constituency, the MP said the grievance redressal initiative was receiving an encouraging response from the public, with residents attending it in large numbers and presenting a wide range of civic, welfare and pension-related issues. Also Read - Bureaucratic Reshuffle: IAS Officers Transferred In Andhra Pradesh Chinni said the Praja Darbar programme was being conducted successfully under the guidance of the CM and others. Many of the complaints being brought before the government were linked to unresolved problems and the administrative difficulties faced by people during the previous government's tenure, he said. The MP directly



interacted with residents, received petitions from beneficiaries and urged the officials to respond immediately to the grievances and ensure speedy resolution of the issues. Also Read - Naidu, Pawan Kalyan Congratulate Suwendu Adhikari on Swearing-in as WB CM Referring to complaints relating to pensions, Kesineni Chinni said the government

preparative was receiving an encouraging response from the public, with residents attending it in large numbers and presenting a wide range of civic, welfare and pension-related issues. Also Read - Bureaucratic Reshuffle: IAS Officers Transferred In Andhra Pradesh Chinni said the Praja Darbar programme was being conducted successfully under the guidance of the CM

and others. Many of the complaints being brought before the government were linked to unresolved problems and the administrative difficulties faced by people during the previous government's tenure, he said. The MP directly ing to introduce a new policy on pensions shortly to address beneficiary concerns in a more effective manner. He assured the people that the state gov-

ernment remained committed to implementing welfare measures and maintaining a people-centric administration. He announced that GO-30 would soon be implemented to regularise eligible beneficiaries and issue land ownership pattas. Several party leaders, corporation representatives and local functionaries participated in the programme.

Barricades to curb speeding, protect wildlife in Kawal



ADILABAD: Authorities are stepping up efforts to regulate traffic in the core area of the Kawal Tiger Reserve in the erstwhile Adilabad district, as rising vehicle movement continues to threaten wildlife. Barricades are being erected at multiple points to slow vehicles and curb high-speed movement through the protected zone. The move follows a resolution passed last year by the State Wildlife Board permitting heavy vehicle movement through the core area, while also recommending strict speed control measures. However, over the past six months, traffic has increased significantly, with heavy vehicles frequently using the stretch. The core area has about 120 km of road, where vehicles, especially at night, often travel at high speeds, leading to a rise in animal deaths. Heavy vehicles are also frequently parked along the roadside, adding to safety and ecological concerns. Villagers allege a double standard in enforcement. While restrictions are imposed on activities such as beedi leaf collection and sand excavation in forest and Godavari river areas, heavy vehicles continue to pass through the core zone with limited checks. They further claim that lorries, particularly 16-tyre and 18-tyre vehicles, use the route to bypass toll plazas, resulting in revenue loss to the government. Locals questioned why such movement is permitted when the forest department receives no additional revenue. Environmentalists have also raised concerns over monitoring gaps. While forest fires are tracked in real time from Dehradun, with alerts sent to field officials, they questioned why similar systems are not in place to regulate night-time vehicle movement. Allegations have surfaced that some vehicles use fake slips to pass through the core area after 10 pm, violating existing rules. They have suggested installing speed guns, strengthening night patrols and imposing strict penalties to curb violations. Experts also noted that, as per Road Transport Authority norms, vehicle movement should be regulated based on road capacity. Despite the core area having a single road, heavy multi-axle vehicles continue to ply regularly. Forest officials said around 50 animals were killed in road accidents in 2025, ranging from reptiles to deer. Field Director of Kawal Tiger Reserve, S Shantharam, said the core area road is a state road stretching about 120 km and vehicles often travel at high speed. He said barricades are being set up at around 15 locations to control speed. He added that while police conduct checks such as drunk driving enforcement, the forest department is independ-

JNTU-GV Signs MOU With Germany's Reutlingen



Visakhapatnam: Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Gurajada, Vizianagaram (JNTU-GV) has signed a pact with the Knowledge Foundation Reutlingen University (KFRU), Germany, to launch a 5-year International Integrated Bachelor's and Master's programme. The collaboration will provide international-standard education in Professional Software Engineering, Digital Engineering, and Management. Registrations are open via the JNTU-GV website. ead - Naidu, Pawan Kalyan Caead - Naidu, Pawan Kalyan Conouth for international careers by equipping them with language proficiency, communication skills, and orientation towards German workplace culture. Vice-chancellor VV Subbarao said the collaboration reflects JNTU-GV's commitment to global employability, skill development, and industry-integrated education. The pact, in the form of an MoU, was signed under the leadership of Prof Subbarao and registrar-in-charge Prof D Rajya Lakshmi, in the presence of the directors Prof G Swami Naidu, Prof SK Vali, Prof G Jaya Suma, Prof GJ Naga Raju, the principal-in-charge Prof KCB Rcellor VV Subbarao said the collaboration reflects JNTU-GV's commitment to global employment opportunities for students and strengthen global academic and industrial integration.

Carbon Credit: Study Finds Underground Treasure Of Delhi's Forests

New Delhi: In a city struggling with toxic air and rising temperatures, Delhi's forests have been quietly storing an underground climate treasure. Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Delhi have found that urban forests in the national capital are absorbing massive amounts of carbon in their trees and soil, with the potential to generate over Rs 4 lakh per hectare through carbon credits.

The study said that one hectare of urban forest land inside the JNU campus could store nearly 346.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or around 3,46,900 kilograms. One hectare equals nearly 2.47 acres. Researchers estimated the carbon credit value of this storage at nearly USD 4,846, or more than Rs 4 lakh per hectare. According to the study, the biggest carbon storage was happening underground rather than in trees. Researchers said

soil organic carbon accounted for more than 43 per cent of the total carbon stored in the ecosystem. The soil alone stored nearly 149.73 tonnes, or around 1,49,730 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, with an estimated carbon credit value of nearly USD 2,096 or around Rs 1.74 lakh per hectare.

Among tree species, neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and babool (*Acacia nilotica*) emerged as the strongest carbon absorbers in the forest ecosystem studied by researchers. The study found neem trees stored 55.10 tonnes, or around 55,100 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, with an estimated carbon credit value of over USD 771, or more than Rs 64,000. Babool trees stored 54.43 tonnes, or around 54,430 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, valued at around USD 762, or 63,000. Researchers also found that litter on the



forest floor, shrubs, herbs and underground microbial activity contributed significantly to carbon storage, showing that entire forest ecosystems, and not just large trees, help absorb greenhouse gases.

The researchers said urban forests in Delhi could become critical natural buffers against rising emissions and worsening climate conditions in the city if protected and expanded properly. The study noted that native species such as neem and babool are especially important in semi-arid urban conditions because of their high carbon storage potential and ability to

survive harsh climatic conditions. Researchers also found that forests with greater biodiversity and healthier soil stored more carbon overall.

The findings come amid the Delhi government's push to monetise pollution reduction through a Carbon Credit Monetisation Framework approved by the Cabinet in January this year. Under the framework, pollution reduction achieved through electric bus one tonne of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere or prevented from being released. Governments and companies buy these credits to balance out their emissions.

Tamil Nadu Govt Formation: Vijay's TVK Crosses Majority Mark With Thirumavalavan's VCK Backing

Chennai: After marathon deliberations, the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) has offered its letter of "unconditional support" to the Vijay-led Tamil Nadu government (TVK) to form the next government in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. VCK founder and Lok Sabha MP Thol Thirumavalavan handed over the letter of support to TVK general secretary (election strategy) Aadhav Arjuna.

Emerging from the meeting, Aadhav repeated "Vetri, Vetri, Vetri", showcasing the letter to the media, before he left to meet his party leader and Chief Minister-elect Vijay. This ends the uncertainty over the numbers the new entrant party was facing over the government formation and also the connected dramas involving the DMK and the AIADMK coming together. The TVK now has the backing of 118 MLAs in the 234-member Assembly.

VCK founder and Lok Sabha MP Thol Thirumavalavan handing over the letter of unconditional support to TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna.



VCK founder and Lok Sabha MP Thol Thirumavalavan handed over the letter of unconditional support to TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna. (ETV Bharat via TVK) According to the communication addressed to the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the party's president conveyed its support to the TVK "under the leadership of its President and Legislative Party Leader, C. Joseph Vijay, for the purpose of forming the Government in the State of Tamil Nadu," on behalf of its two Members of the Legislative Assembly. The support, the letter said, "is being conveyed in the interest of ensuring stable and democratic governance for the people of Tamil Nadu." It sought the Governor to "take on record" their "unconditional support".

Friday, Thirumavalavan discussed a host of outcomes the party will face if it chooses to align with the TVK in a virtual high-level meeting he chaired. Thirumavalavan, who headed Saturday morning. However, he gave a miss to the party office visit for the media interaction in the morning. His party colleagues, treasurer SS Balaji and spokesperson KK Pavalan, said that they would announce the venue and time later at about 4 pm for the media gised for the inconvenience. It is pertinent to already started beaming the live feed from its social media handles for the proposed morning media i Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) party headquarters as VCK Treasurer SS Balaji and conference on the official stand on supporting Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri

Kazhagam (TVK) in forming the government in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai, Saturday, May 9, 2026. (PTI)

The TVK finished as the single largest party in the recently concluded Assembly election with 108 seats in the 234-member House. However, the composition of the House remains altered since the tinsel superstar contested from two seats--Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli East--one of which he will vacate, bringing down the party's strength to 107. This means the effective number of members of the House is 233. TVK has been attempting to gather the support required to cross the majority mark, which is 118, since the counting trends showed the party as inching towards becoming the only party touch three figure-mark on May 4. Congress, which has 5 members, was the first to extend support to the TVK, followed by the CPI(M) and CPI, who have two members. With the arrival of the VCK, the total number of MLAs backing Vijay has climbed to 118.

HC Junks SpiceJet's Plea To Review Rs 144 Cr Payment Order In Dispute With Maran

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order to deposit Rs 144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline and Singh.

"Dismissed with cost of Rs 50,000," the judge said while pronouncing the verdict. On January 19, the court had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit Rs 144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of Rs 194 crore. On March 18, time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks. his budget airline sought reconsideration of the March 18 direction on several counts, including financial distress amid the ongoing



war in West Asia. SpiceJet instead offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security and informed the court that the Centre was willing to offer it some assistance. Maan and Kal Airways opposed the

review petitions, saying the issues arising from financial distress had already been considered and rejected by the Supreme Court.

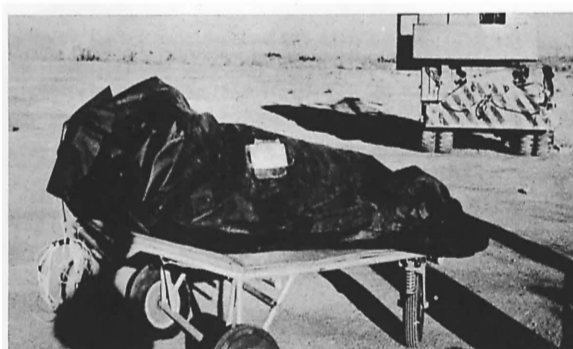
The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-issuance of warrants

in favour of Maran after the transfer of ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet. The dispute started after Singh took back control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline.

Pentagon Begins Releasing New Files On UFOs And Says The Public Can Draw Its Own Conclusions

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon has begun releasing new files on UFOs, saying members of the public can draw their own conclusions on "unidentified anomalous phenomena." Besides the Pentagon, the effort is led by the White House, the director of national intelligence, the Energy Department, NASA and the FBI. The Pentagon said Friday in a post on X that while past administrations sought to discredit or dissuade the American people, President Donald Trump "is focused on providing maximum transparency to the public, who can ultimately make up their own minds about the information contained in these files." The Pentagon says additional documents will be released on a rolling basis. Trump, a Republican, has been teasing the announcement since February. He

has previously released records related to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. that revealed little beyond what was already known. The Pentagon has been working on declassifying documents related to UFOs for years, and Congress created an office in 2022 to declassify material. Its 2024 debut report revealed hundreds of new UAP incidents but found no evidence that the U.S. government had ever confirmed a sighting of alien technology. Congress ordered the Pentagon to begin releasing decades of files on UFO sightings in 2022 as some members of the military shared encounters with unexplained aircraft. A small group of Republicans in Congress has pressed for further



transparency, accusing the Pentagon of holding documents back. A March letter from Rep. Anna Paulina Luna demanded 46 UAP videos identified by whistleblowers. On social media on Friday, Luna said those videos are expected to be released in a later Pentagon release. Rep. Tim Burchett thanked Trump for "keeping his word" on transparency and disclosure. "I would like to remind

people that transparency won't all happen at once, it will take some time," Burchett said in a statement. Experts have urged caution around the release of the new files, warning that UAP videos are often misinterpreted and mischaracterized by those unfamiliar with advanced military technology. The Pentagon's 2024 report rebutted claims that the U.S. government has recovered alien technology or confirmed evi-

Trump Says Russia And Ukraine Have Agreed To His Request For A 3-Day Ceasefire And A Prisoner Swap



Washington: President Donald Trump said Friday that the leaders of Russia and Ukraine have agreed to his request for a three-day ceasefire and an exchange of prisoners, adding that such a halt to hostilities could be the "beginning of the end" of the long war between them. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Yuri Ushakov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, both confirmed the agreement. "I asked and, President Putin agreed. President Zelenskyy agreed -- both readily," Trump said as he departed the White House to attend a dinner at his Virginia golf club. "And we have a little period of time where they're not going to be killing people. That's very good." Trump earlier Friday had announced on social media that the ceasefire would run Saturday through Monday. Saturday is Victory Day in Russia, a holiday that commemorates the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. "I am pleased to announce that there will be a THREE DAY CEASEFIRE (May 9th, 10th, and 11th) in the War between Russia and

Ukraine," Trump wrote. "The Celebration in Russia is for Victory Day but, likewise, in Ukraine, because they were also a big part and factor of World War II." The Republican president said the ceasefire includes a suspension of all kinetic activity and the exchange of 1,000 prisoners by each country. Russia had announced a ceasefire for Friday and Saturday, but it quickly unraveled, with both sides blaming the other for the continued fighting, just as they had when Ukraine's own unilateral ceasefire had swiftly collapsed earlier in the week.

Trump said he made his request for the ceasefire "directly" to the two presidents. "Hopefully, it is the beginning of the end of a very long, deadly, and hard fought War," he said. Trump added that talks continue over ending the war that began in February 2022 "and we are getting closer and closer every day." Trump has gone back and forth over whether the war will end, at times expressing optimism and at other times saying Russia and Ukraine should be left to fight it out to the bitter end. Zelenskyy said

Ukraine's decision on how to engage with those discussions was shaped in part by the prospect of freeing its prisoners. Ukraine has made the return of prisoners of war a central demand throughout the conflict.

"Red Square matters less to us than the lives of Ukrainian prisoners of war who can be brought home," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. Red Square is where Russia holds its traditional military parade to celebrate Victory Day, one of the biggest holidays of the year. After releasing his statement, Zelenskyy issued a formal presidential decree "authorizing" Russia to hold the parade, declaring Red Square off-limits for Ukrainian strikes for the duration of the event. e appeared designed to underscore Kyiv's claim that it holds effective targeting reach over the Russian capital, while publicly tying Ukrainian restraint to the ceasefire terms. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later shrugged off Zelenskyy's decree as a "silly joke." "We don't need anyone's permission to be proud of our Victory Day," Peskov told reporters.

Zelenskyy said the deal for a ceasefire was reached through a U.S.-mediated process and thanked Trump and the American team for what he called effective diplomatic engagement. He said Ukraine expected Washington to hold Russia to the terms of the agreement.

"We are counting on the United States to ensure that Russia fulfills its commitments," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy said he had instructed his team to prepare everything necessary for the exchange without delay.

Trump's announcement came hours after Secretary of State Marco Rubio struck a much more somber tone about negotiations to halt Russia's 4-year-old war in Ukraine, saying U.S. mediation efforts have not led to a "fruitful outcome" so far.

"While we're prepared to play whatever role we can to bring it to a peaceful diplomatic resolution, unfortunately right now, those efforts have stagnated," Rubio told reporters at the end of a visit to Rome and the Vatican. "But we always stand ready if those circumstances change."

UK Sets Out Fuel Contingency Plans For Flights Amid US-Iran Conflict

London: Airlines will be expected to consolidate schedules on certain routes with multiple flights to the same destination on the same day as part of contingency measures the UK government announced on Sunday. The Department for Transport (DfT) issued a series of temporary plans amid ongoing jet fuel supply issues caused by the US-Iran conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.



It stressed that while UK airlines say they are not currently facing supply issues, the government is stepping in to protect travellers from the likelihood of last-minute flight cancellations over the upcoming summer holiday period in the event of significant disruption caused by the conflict.

"Since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the government has been monitoring jet fuel supplies daily and working with airlines, airports and fuel suppliers to stay ahead of any problems," said UK Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander. "There are no immediate supply issues, but we're preparing now to give families long-term certainty and avoid unnecessary disruption at the departure gate this summer." This legislation will give airlines the tools to adjust flights in good time if they need to, which helps protect passengers and businesses," she said. Alexander said that the UK "will do everything we can to insulate" the country from the impact of the situation in West Asia. The contingency plans are designed to enable airlines to plan realistically and lock in schedules earlier so that people are less likely to be affected by short-

notice changes at the airport. Instead of cancelling flights at the last minute, the temporary measures would help move passengers onto similar services, prevent running flights which have not sold a significant proportion of tickets and reduce wasted fuel from flying near-empty planes. DfT said it will be consulting with the aviation industry in order to act quickly and before any travel disruption is allowed to take hold. The measures will allow airlines to proactively hand back a limited proportion of their allocated take-off and landing slots without losing the right to operate them the following season. Such "hand backs" would help airlines build realistic schedules and avoid last-minute cancellations rather than flying empty "ghost flights" or cancelling at short notice, putting passengers' plans at risk, DfT stated. "Airlines have a duty to look after their passengers when they face disruption, and should offer a choice between a refund or alternative travel arrangements, including with another airline, if a flight is cancelled," said Rob Bishton, Chief Executive of the UK

Civil Aviation Authority. "Relaxing the rules around slots at airports will allow airlines more flexibility, and so we expect them to give passengers as much notice as possible of cancellations during this period," he said.

Under UK rules, if a flight is cancelled by the airline, passengers have a legal right to a choice between being re-routed or a refund. If it is subject to a significant delay – at least two hours for short-haul, three hours for medium-haul and four hours for long-haul – passengers are entitled to care and assistance, including food, drink and overnight accommodation where necessary. The British government said it is increasing awareness around consumer rights as it works to increase flexibility on jet fuel supply and domestic jet fuel production. The UK imports jet fuel supplies from a range of countries not reliant on the Strait, including the United States. The UK's four refineries have been asked to maximise jet fuel supply, as the government explores options to increase supplies from the US. The Transport Secretary discussed the government's contingency plans to

protect summer holiday plans at a roundtable with key industry figures earlier this week, including representatives from Heathrow and Gatwick Airports as well as British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and easyJet. "UK airlines continue to operate normally and are not experiencing issues with jet fuel supply," said Tim Alderslade, CEO of Airlines UK. "We welcome the government's contingency planning, including slot alleviation, which is one measure which enables airlines to adjust schedules responsibly, avoid unnecessary flying and continue operating efficiently while protecting connectivity for passengers," he said. Karen Dee, Chief Executive of AirportsUK, added: "While our partners across the aviation sector continue to report no shortage of jet fuel supplies, it is sensible for the government to consult on possible action if this were to change. "We will now work closely with our airport members, ministers and officials to examine the proposals and respond on the best way to proceed that will lead to the best outcomes for passengers."

Must Avoid Dependencies On Adversarial Nations In AI: US Official

Washington: India and the US must be guided by the principles of openness and avoid any dependencies on adversarial nations to fully realise the potential of areas such as artificial intelligence, a senior US official said here on Friday. Addressing the US-India AI and Emerging Technology Forum, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bethany Morrison said the US wants to make sure that countries in the region have access to world-class technology and get that integrated into society to deliver the best value and results for their people. "But in order to fully realise the benefits of this incredible technology, we must be guided by the principles of openness, as well as focus on our security and our interoperability, and avoid any dependencies on adversarial nations," Morrison said at the event organised by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, ORF America and the Motwani Jadeja Foundation. She said the private sector has already invested more than USD 300 billion in the development of AI technologies in the first quarter of 2026 and more than half of these investments have come to US companies. "Indian companies are making



incredible strides in this space and making real investments," Morrison said, adding that Indian businesses announced investments of USD 1.1 billion at the SelectUSA Investment Summit here this week. She said the US was excited to see the investment and technology relationship with India because it shares the US vision on AI. "The Indian government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, sees clearly that AI technology must contribute to prosperity for our nations, while also being clear-eyed about the security threats that we both face," Morrison said. "I truly believe the United States and India are a fantastic match for this next phase of tech innovation, and I look forward to working with my counterparts in the Indian government, the private sector, the community of experts to help shape the future of AI in our American leadership and Indian leadership," Morrison said.

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Quantum, Nuclear, AI Next Frontier Areas Of India-US Cooperation: Kwatra

Washington: Quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and nuclear science are among the next frontier areas of cooperation for India and the US, India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra has said. Speaking at an interactive session at the US-India AI and Emerging Technology Forum here on Friday, Kwatra flagged nuclear fusion as an area of cooperation between the two countries, in addition to the conventional fission technologies used in civil nuclear power projects across the world. India and the US are part of the international nuclear fusion research experiment to build a fusion reactor near Cadarache in France. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) has the European Union and eight countries, including the US, Russia, India and China as members. "I would even single out nuclear here because there are parts of nuclear which are of course old and established, but there are parts which are emerging, nuclear fusion in particular," Kwatra said at the forum organised by the USISPF, ORF America and the Motwani Jadeja Foundation on the sidelines of the AI+ Expo here. The Indian envoy also listed small and



modular reactors, which is a new technology, as an area of interest for cooperation between the two countries. A delegation of American nuclear companies is scheduled to visit India later this month to explore areas of cooperation after New Delhi opened up the civil nuclear power sector for private participation last year. India enacted the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act in December last year, replacing the Atomic Energy Act of 1964 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CNLD) Act of 2010. The CNLD Act had tougher liability provisions for nuclear suppliers, which global companies found to be an impediment in exploring the Indian market. After the landmark India-US Civil Nuclear

agreement of 2008, US companies were allotted two sites – Chhaya Mithi Virdi in Gujarat and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. Westinghouse Electric Company had evinced interest in setting up six 1,000 MW nuclear power units in India. At the forum, which saw the participation of representatives of deeptech start-ups from India and senior US officials, Kwatra said the SHANTI Act essentially unlocks the massive ability of the private sector to participate in the nuclear domain. "Nuclear fusion is, again, one of those areas where if you combine it, for example, with the deployment of AI in optimising the progress of nuclear fusion technology, and later on, hopefully in a few years' time, if the quantum compute through quantum advancement leads us to that space where you bring in new capaci-

ties of compute into nuclear fusion, you may be looking at something really exciting," Kwatra said. The Indian envoy also listed biopharmaceuticals as a very important priority area in the India-US partnership. He said the area of biopharmaceuticals has multiple substreams under which India and the US were partnering, not just at the level of the government and the industry, but also between the universities. "It's an aspect which is not highlighted publicly very often, but I think it is one of the very strong driving features of our partnership, which is how the researchers and the scientific community between our two countries come together to build on each of these areas of cooperation," Kwatra said.

US Fire On Iran Tankers Sparks Reprisals As Deal Hangs In Balance

Tehran: A US fighter jet on Friday disabled two Iranian-flagged tankers, prompting retaliatory attacks and rattling a shaky truce as President Donald Trump said he was awaiting Tehran's reply to his latest proposal to end the Middle East war. Iranian officials accused the United States of violating the ceasefire with the tanker strikes and hampering diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. A parallel ceasefire in Lebanon was also under strain. Iran-backed Hezbollah launched missiles and drones at military bases in Israel in retaliation for a recent attack on Beirut and ongoing strikes in the south, where Lebanese authorities reported 11 people killed on Friday. US Central Command said an F/A-18 Super Hornet used precision munitions on Friday against two ships in the Gulf of Oman – gateway to the vital Strait of Hormuz – to prevent them from continuing to Iran. An Iranian military official told local media the country's navy had "responded to the violation of the ceasefire and to American terrorism with strikes" and "the clashes have now ceased." The latest incident came after another flare-up overnight in the strait, control of which an adviser to Iran's supreme leader compared to having "an atomic bomb." US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterated on Friday that it was "unac-

ceptable" for Tehran to control the crucial oil conduit. Speaking to reporters in Rome, Rubio said Washington was expecting Iran's response to its latest proposal later in the day and expressed hope it would be "a serious offer." Trump, at the White House, later added: "I'm getting a letter supposedly tonight, so we'll see how that goes." Washington has sent Iran, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal to extend the truce in the Gulf to allow for talks on a final settlement of the conflict launched 10 weeks ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Friday that the proposal was still "under review," according to the ISNA news agency. Oil slick – Iran's UN envoy, Amir Saeed Irvani, accused the United States of violating the ceasefire with the attacks on the Iranian tankers, in a letter to the UN secretary-general and Security Council. Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with US Vice President JD Vance in Washington on Friday and discussed the Pakistani-led efforts to broker a permanent peace. Iran has repeatedly attacked sites in Qatar during the war, pointing to the wealthy emirate's role as host of a major US air base. Satellite images have meanwhile shown that an oil slick is spreading off the coast



of Iran's Kharg Island, a key oil export terminal for the Islamic republic. It was not immediately clear what had caused the apparent spill, which was located off the island's west coast and appears to cover more than 20 square miles (52 square kilometres), according to global monitor Orbital EOS. Kharg Island is at the heart of Iran's oil export industry, a lynchpin of the country's battered economy, and lies in the Gulf, north of the narrow Strait of Hormuz. Following the start of the war on February 28, Iran largely closed the strait, throwing global markets into turmoil and driving up oil prices. The US later imposed its own blockade of Iranian ports in response. On Sunday, Trump announced a US naval operation designed to reopen the strait to commercial shipping, only to abandon it on Tuesday in favour of a return to negotiations. Saudi sources told AFP on Friday that the kingdom had refused permission for the US military to

use its bases and airspace for the Hormuz operation, with one saying Riyadh "felt it would just escalate the situation and would not work." – Lebanon front – On the war's other front, Hezbollah said a salvo of missiles targeted a base south of the Israeli city of Nahariya on Friday in response to Israeli targeting of Beirut's southern suburbs and southern Lebanon. Hours later, the Iran-backed group announced it had launched a swarm of drones at another base in northern Israel. Israel has kept up its strikes on Hezbollah in spite of a ceasefire, and on Wednesday it carried out its first attack on Beirut's southern suburbs in a month, saying it killed a senior Hezbollah commander. The Lebanese health ministry said Israeli strikes in the south killed 10 people on Friday, including two children and three women. Lebanon's civil defence said one of its members was killed. The latest

Congress split with DMK and the rise of Third Front



The ink on the 2026 Tamil Nadu election results has barely dried, yet the political landscape of India has been hit by a seismic shift that threatens to bring down the entire house of the I.N.D.I.A bloc. In a move that can only be described as a masterclass in political opportunism, the Indian National Congress has decided to pivot away from its steadfast anchor, the DMK, to court Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK). Opinion: Back to coalition era

While the TVK emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats, falling just short of the 118-seat majority mark, the Congress' sudden shift in loyalty is more than a localised strategy; it is a signal that the grand old party may be the very architect of the I.N.D.I.A bloc's demise. This manoeuvre appears particularly irrational given that TVK stands as the single largest party. Yet, the Congress' eagerness to leap into a new bed of convenience reveals a startling lack of political principle and a total disregard for the emotional intelligence of the Tamil people.

Shattered Foundation

For decades, the DMK was not just an ally; it was the Congress' life support system in the South. When the Congress faced its darkest hours, the DMK stood like a rock, providing a foundation of support that was as much emotional as it was tactical. This was a friendship forged in the fires of adversity. During the peak of the National Herald case and the legal tempests surrounding Rahul Gandhi, the DMK and the Communists provided the loudest and most consistent defence. They did not flinch even when the 2G Spectrum storm, later proven to be nothing more than a whirlwind of smoke and mirrors, sent their own leaders, A Raja and Kanimozhi, to prison. They stood by the Congress leadership with an emotional depth rarely seen in the sterile corridors of political power. To watch the Congress now turn its back on such a "rock-solid" companion is to witness a deep emotional fracture, a total collapse of trust that leaves the spirit of the alliance in ruins. Friendly Fire, Death of Federalism

This is not an isolated squall; it is a recurring hurricane of self-destruction. Across the map, the Congress has developed a habit of poisoning its own wells. In

Kerala, the "unity" of the I.N.D.I.A bloc is a hollow echo as the party continues its bitter struggle with the Left Front.

In West Bengal, the Congress' decision to contest seats independently only serves to fragment the anti-incumbency vote, effectively acting as the wind beneath the BJP's wings by keeping regional heavyweights like Mamata Banerjee in check. As the Congress pivots toward short-term regional gains, the vacuum created by its fading commitment to federal unity is already being filled by emerging Third Front forces. Perhaps most tragically, we see the echoes of the Arvind Kejriwal saga, where the rhetoric of federalism was buried under a mountain of indifference as the BJP's alleged "conspiracy to kill" a sitting Chief Minister through medical neglect in jail was met with a deafening silence from the Congress high command. Both the BJP and the Congress now appear as two sides of the same storm, seeking to uproot every regional tree until only their own monoliths remain standing. Their shared vision is a scorched earth where regional identity is discarded like fallen leaves, and "Federalism" is a word spoken only when the cameras are rolling.

Governor's Deadlock and Stifled Breeze

While the Congress plays its game of opportunism, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar ensured the political atmosphere remains stagnant and foul. By stalling the government formation and refusing to let Vijay take the oath, the Governor played an unholy game of constitutional delay that defies the will of the people. Vijay represents a fresh breeze in Tamil Nadu politics, a new, energetic force that has blown the dust off the old Dravidian duopoly. The Democratic convention dictates that such a mandate should be given the chance to breathe. Instead, the Governor suffocated this mandate in a vacuum of "resort politics" and technicalities, providing the perfect cover for, may be persuaded by his allies to return to centre stage to lead this upcoming Chandrashekhar Rao has already done the heavy lifting in the past, making pioneering efforts to unite disparate regional forces under a common federal agenda. If he takes the mantle, the national political

dynamics will undergo a radical transformation: The Federal Third Front: Chandrashekhar Rao's deep understanding of coalition arithmetic and his history of challenging the "big brother" attitude of national parties make him the natural choice to bridge the gap between leaders like Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, and Akhilesh Yadav.

A Proven Development Blueprint: His "Telangana Model" of welfare and development provides a tangible alternative to the rhetoric of the two national behemoths, offering the Third Front a constructive national agenda rather than just an anti-incumbency platform. Filling the Leadership Vacuum: With the Congress abdicating its role as a reliable partner, KCR's entry provides the intellectual and the Congress to complete its treachery.

The Final Nail

Ultimately, the sabotage of the I.N.D.I.A bloc appears to be a self-inflicted wound that will irrevocably alter the national landscape. As the Congress pivots toward opportunistic localised gains, evidenced by its stunning desertion of the DMK to support the TVK, the vacuum left by its fading commitment to federal unity is already being filled. In a significant post-election recalibration, Mamata Banerjee has already begun reaching out to the DMK, while Akhilesh Yadav has moved to extend the solidarity to the TMC and the DMK. Akhilesh Yadav went ahead to openly tweet that "we are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty", which is a dig at the Congress and also gives a signal for a probable Third Front. Also, we have seen during the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu campaign, Arvind Kejriwal campaigned for them, while Tejaswi Yadav campaigned for the TMC in West Bengal. This rapid quiet and convergence of regional heavyweights — Mamta Banerjee, MK Stalin, and Akhilesh Yadav — points toward the likely inevitable formation of shifting sands, there is a Third Front, born from the ashes of broken trust.

KCR's Concept of Third Front In this climate of shifting sands, there is a distinct possibility that K Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), a legenshifting sands, there is a dary leader and the original architect of the non-

Congress, non-BJP alternative, may be persuaded by his allies to return to centre stage to lead this upcoming Third Front. Chandrashekhar Rao has already done the heavy lifting in the past, making pioneering efforts to unite disparate regional forces under a common federal agenda. If he takes the mantle, the national political dynamics will undergo a radical transformation: The Federal Third Front: Chandrashekhar Rao's deep understanding of coalition arithmetic and his history of challenging the "big brother" attitude of national parties make him the natural choice to bridge the gap between leaders like Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, and Akhilesh Yadav.

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The Congress' betrayal in Tamil Nadu might finally push the 'Federal Front' from theory into practice, and whether Chandrashekhar Rao accepts to lead in this transformation remains an open question that only time will clarify.

In any case, the very emergence of this alternative front serves as the final nail in the coffin of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, a structure intended to be a sanctuary but now reduced to rubble. It is a profound political tragedy that the very party that acted as the alliance's architect has, through its own shortsightedness, become its primary executioner. By abandoning long-standing allies for the sake of a kingmaker role in Chennai, the Congress has left the path clear for a bipolar struggle that ignores the diverse, regional heartbeat of India. A strong democracy requires a strong opposition, but by dismantling its own foundation, the Congress has not only committed a grave political blunder but has also given rise to a potential Third Front, which could be the strong opposition to protect democracy and the Constitution.

Arrested on a screen — Inside India's digital arrest fraud



In recent months, thousands of citizens have been "arrested" without even stepping into a police station. A video call flashes a uniform and a forged warrant on screen, accompanied by a stern voice warning of immediate detention unless the victim cooperates. What unfolds is not law enforcement, but fraud, a sophisticated cybercrime now commonly known as 'digital arrest'. Editorial: New ideas to fight digital arrest The name itself is a misnomer. Indian law does not have any concept of arrest via video call or screen-shared warrant. Yet the success of this scam lies in how convincingly it imitates the rituals and language of the criminal justice administrative system. Cybercriminals have turned authorities under the law into a tool of deception, weaponising the fear of law itself.

The Illusion of Authority

Digital arrest fraud generally entails the impersonation of law enforcement personnel or officials from agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), or Customs authorities. Victims are informed of their association with money laundering, narcotics trafficking, or courier fraud schemes. The situation intensifies rapidly: separation from family, constant surveillance via video calls, and requests for "verification payments" to prevent arrest.

The efficacy of this scam arises not merely from technological expertise, but from its psychological design. The threat of arrest carries stigma, uncertainty and panic. When presented with seemingly official attributes, it eclipses rational scepticism. That such tactics succeed highlights a deeper vulnerability — not merely digital illiteracy, but legal illiteracy.

Why It Fraud Works

Digital arrest scams thrive at the intersection of fear and asymmetry. Most citizens encounter the criminal justice system at the moment of crisis. The laws relating to arrest, search, seizure, rights of the accused, requirement of physical custody or judicial oversight remain poorly understood. This knowledge gap gives criminals the opportunity to substitute procedure with performance. Further, the perceived imbalance of power between authorities and individuals discourages questioning. Victims fear that refusal to comply may itself be considered an offence. In such an environment, urgency replaces verification. The fraud succeeds, not in the absence

of law, but in the shadow of how law is commonly perceived: distant, punitive and beyond question. It does not exploit a legal vacuum; it exploits public fear of the law.

It's a scam — If it's on a screen and demands money The Video Call Arrest: Indian law enforcement will never arrest you, record a statement, or serve a warrant via WhatsApp, Skype, or Zoom

The 'Secret' Probe: Genuine officials will never ask you to stay on a video call for hours or prevent you from contacting a lawyer or family member.

Money demands: No government agency will ever ask for a "verification deposit" or "security payment" into a private bank account.

Is the Law Ineffective? It would be incorrect to argue that India lacks legal tools to address the issue of digital arrest. India's legal framework sufficiently contains provisions such as Personating a public servant (Section 204 BNS), Cheating (Section 318 BNS), Cheating by personation (Section 319 BNS), Criminal Intimidation (Section 351 BNS), Extortion (Section 308 BNS), Cheating by personation using a computer resource (Section 66D, IT Act), and Identity theft (Section 66C, IT Act). Dedicated cybercrime portals and helplines exist, with repeated advisories issued by enforcement agencies. The problem lies in the enforcement deficit and institutional lag. Cybercriminal networks operate across jurisdictions, often beyond Indian borders. Between 2020 and 2022, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, only about 1.6% of registered cybercrime cases led to convictions across all States — ie, just 2,706 convictions of the roughly 1,67,000 cybercrime cases in India' report, the number of cases registered under the cybercrimes category rose to 86,420 in 2023 from 65,893 cases in 2022. The crime rate under this category increased from 4.8% in 2022 to 6.2% in 2023. Conviction rates remain poor, investigation is slow, and recovery of funds continues to be the exception rather than the norm. The law on paper struggles against the speed and scale of digital crime in practice. When law exists only on paper and criminals act with impunity, deterrence collapses, and advisories ring hollow without enforcement.

State's Response and Its Limits A detailed reply by the Ministry of Home

Affairs in the Lok Sabha on December 2, 2025, illustrates that to strengthen enforcement, the government has established the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), launched the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (https://cybercrime.gov.in) for public reporting, and operationalised the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), which has helped save over Rs 7,130 crore through more than 23.02 lakh complaints. Through coordinated action, authorities reported blocking over 11.14 lakh SIM cards and 2.96 lakh IMEIs linked to cybercrime, alongside multi-agency efforts including the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre and enhanced forensic support to state law enforcement. The government has also rolled out nationwide awareness campaigns through media, caller-tunes and outreach programmes to educate citizens about such scams. These are necessary steps. However, advisories function primarily as awareness tools. They do little for victims in the moment of crisis, when fear eclipses recall. They also do not impose systemic obligations on digital intermediaries whose platforms enable such scams at scale. Awareness without structural safeguards leaves citizens exposed. Awareness is not protection. The response to digital arrest fraud must, therefore, move beyond alerts towards a comprehensive regulatory strategy. Prevention: Stop Before It Starts

Effer private numbers. Such communication protocols must be standardised nationally and publicly notified, with agencies restricted to verifiable channels — official landlines, registered email domains, and in-person procedures — leaving no ambiguity for citizens to exploit. Telecom service providers should be assigned obligations that are technically feasible and within existing regulatory reach. Rather than behavioural surveillance, the focus must be on number integrity and misuse control. Telecom operators should strictly implement caller line identification verification to prevent the spoofing of law enforcement numbers, with flagged numbers subject to time-bound suspension and mandatory re-verification rather than discretionary blocking.

Prevention: Minimising Har to Victims

Even the most robust preventive framework

cannot eliminate fraud entirely. Protection, therefore, must be designed around speed, certainty and victim support, not post-facto sympathy. Financial harm in digital arrest scams escalates within minutes, making immediate fund freezing the single most effective protective measure. While complete recovery remains challenging due to rapid cross-border fund transfers, the UK's approach (see Lessons from the UK) offers instructive precedent. Under English law, financial institutions are required to implement verification protocols before processing transfers, particularly for large sums to new payees. Until verification is completed, transfers should be frozen. Similar mandatory verification mechanisms could significantly slow the movement of fraud proceeds, creating critical windows for intervention.

Lessons from the UK

The United Kingdom's experience with Authorised Push Payment (APP) scams, where victims are tricked into authorising payments to fraudsters, offers valuable lessons for India. Recognising the scale of the problem, in 2024, the Payment Systems Regulator introduced mandatory reimbursement requirements for most APP scam victims, with banks required to reimburse victims up to 85,000 pounds within five business days unless the customer acted with gross negligence. This shift placed greater responsibility on financial institutions, incentivising stronger fraud prevention. Alongside deposit protection (up to 85,000 pounds) under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the approach demonstrates how regulation can both delay and intimidation his requires disrupting erify. The answer is not to abandon technology, but to ensure that legality travels with it. In a constitutional democracy, arrest is not a threat over a call, or a payment extracted through fear: it is a serious act carried out openly, through procedure and accountability. When citizens are made to believe otherwise, what is lost is not just money, but trust.

The state's task is therefore urgent: to make the law visible, understandable and impossible to fake. The legitimacy of law depends not only on its enforcement, but on its recognisability, and in an age of digital deception, that recognisability must be built, protected and constantly reinforced.

Finn Allen's 47-Ball 100



Finn Allen's 47-ball 100 helped Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) drub Delhi Capitals (DC) by eight wickets in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match on Friday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Chasing a modest target of 143, KKR's Finn Allen's brilliant unbeaten century, hitting 10 sixes and five boundaries, along with help from Cameron Green (33 off 27 balls), guided the team home with eight wickets and 34 balls remaining. Openers Ajinkya Rahane (13) and Allen gave the team a quick start as they reached 29/1 in 2.5 overs, but the visitors lost Rahane to a runout by Mitchell Starc on the last ball of the third over. Captain Axar Patel removed Angkrish Raghuvanshi in the very next over to reduce KKR to 32/2 in 4 overs. However, that was all the DC bowlers managed, as what followed was a proper onslaught by Allen. Once Finn Allen found his rhythm, he played with proper aggression. He targeted

the spin of Vipraj Nigam and the pace of the DC attack with equal disdain. He reached his fifty off 32 balls with a six off Mitchell Starc's bowling in the 11th over. After 11 overs, KKR were 86/2. Allen slammed three back-to-back sixes to Nigam in the 12th over and then smashed two in the very next over, bowled by Kuldeep Yadav, to enter the 90s. With just three runs needed for a win, Cameron Green took a single to let Allen take the strike. Allen, on 94, slammed a massive six to reach his maiden IPL hundred off 47 balls and also took KKR to an eight-wicket win. Coming to DC's bowling, Axar Patel (1/27 in 4 overs) and Lungi Ngidi (0/7 in 2 overs) were the only ones who shone. The win marked KKR's fourth consecutive victory in this season of the IPL. They now sit seventh on the points table with four wins in 10 matches. Earlier, after KKR put DC to bat first, openers KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka started

well, collecting runs freely against spinners Anukul Roy and Sunil Narine. The duo was going at almost 10 runs per over. In the fifth over, KL tried to dominate pacer Kartik Tyagi with a couple of fours, but an attempt at going inside-out over covers went straight into the hands of Cameron Green, removing him for a 14-ball 23. DC was 49/1 in five overs. DC reached the 50-run mark in 5.1 overs. At the end of the powerplay, DC was 55/1, with Nitish Rana (1) and Nissanka (31) unbeaten. Nissanka continued to bat in a free-flow manner against spin, even hitting Green for a six and a four. But the Aussie all-rounder pushed DC back by removing Nitish for a 10-ball eight. DC was 74/2 in eight overs. Spin started to dominate DC, as Narine removed Sameer Rizvi for seven-ball three, reducing DC to 80/3 in 10 overs. In the 11th over, Anukul snapped wickets of Nissanka, who had just reached his second-fifty

of the competition, courtesy a stumping from keeper Angkrish Raghuvanshi for 29-ball 50 (with five fours and three sixes) and hit Tristan Stubbs' off-stump when he was at 2. DC sunk to 89/5 in 10.5 overs from a dominant position of 74/1. Ashutosh Sharma and skipper Axar Patel were well contained by the spinners Varun, Anukul and Sunil in the middle-overs. The spinners put on an exceptional squeeze. From overs 11 to 15, DC could score just 18 runs and only one boundary came from the bat of Nissanka. DC reached the 100-run mark in 16 overs. It took Ashutosh's six to break a boundary-less streak of 38 balls on the third ball of the 17th over and he further relieved pressure with two more fours, ending the over with 16 runs. Vaibhav Arora ended skipper Axar's stay at the crease, courtesy a fine catch from Anukul. The captain played a poor knock of 11 in 22 balls, reducing DC to 128/6 in 18.3

Court Setbacks To Trump Add Uncertainty To US Tariffs, May Slowdown BTA Talks With India: Experts

Repeated setbacks faced by US President Donald Trump in American courts have further heightened uncertainty over the US tariff regime, and India should wait for the United States to evolve a more stable and legally predictable trade framework before moving ahead with the proposed bilateral trade agreement, experts said.

They said that this ruling is a crucial reminder that Trump's global tariffs violated WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules, and their striking down by US courts is a positive signal for multi-lateral trade norms.

In another setback to the White House, a US federal court has struck down the 10 per cent global tariffs slapped by Trump, terming them "invalid" and "unauthorised by law". These new tariffs were imposed by Trump on all countries, including India, on February 24 for 150 days following an earlier US Supreme Court verdict that struck down his earlier sweeping levies.

"The continuing uncertainty around US tariff policy, with major Trump-era tariffs repeatedly struck down by courts, makes any long-term trade commitments by India difficult to justify," think GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. He said that India should wait until the United States develops a more stable and legally reliable trade system before concluding the Bilateral Trade Agreement. "At present, the US is also not prepared to reduce its standard Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariffs, while expecting India to



lower or eliminate its MFN duties across most sectors. Under such conditions, any trade deal risks becoming one-sided, with India offering permanent market access concessions without receiving any meaningful tariff benefits in return," Srivastava said. Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation, former Director, WTO, said that the federal court's ruling is a crucial reminder that Trump's global tariffs are in violation to the rules of the violated WTO rules, and their striking down is a positive signal for multi-lateral trade norms.

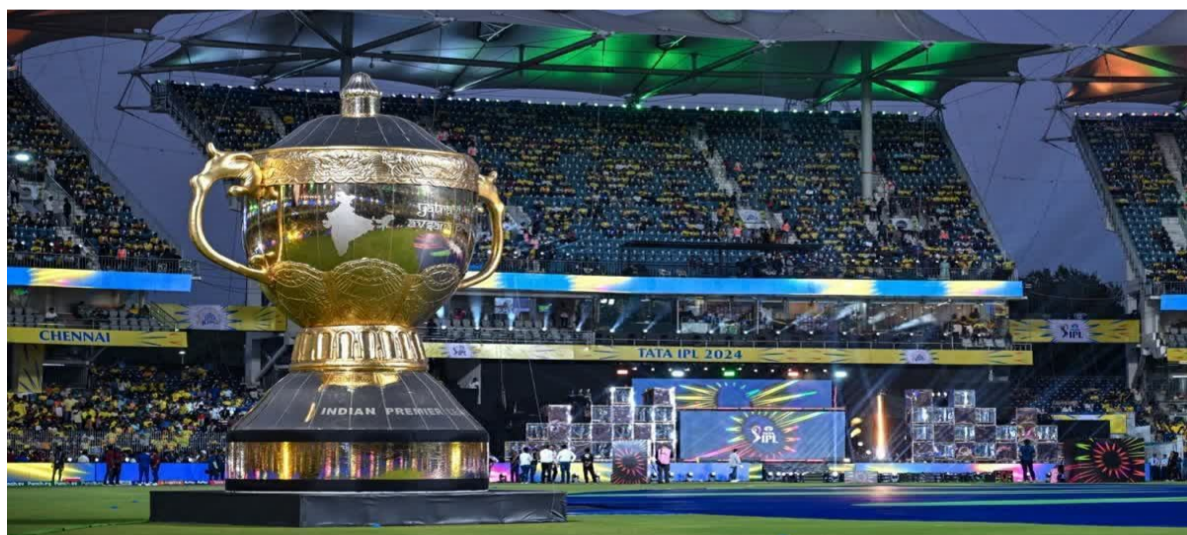
"However, wit the decision held in abeyance, uncertainty lingers. We must remain vigilant, as the US may still seek new avenues to circumvent the ruling," Priyadarshi said. The United States Court of International Trade, in a 2-1 ruling on May 7, said the Trump administration had gone beyond the powers given by Congress under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. It was struck down less than 50 days after they were introduced on

February 20. According to the GTRI, the decision currently applies only to the parties that filed the case, the state of Washington, spice importer Burlap & Barrel, and toy maker Basic Fun!"

The tariffs will continue for other importers while the US government appeals the ruling. The court chose not to block the tariffs nationwide at this stage. The court limited relief to the litigants before it rather than issuing a nationwide injunction, a practice sometimes followed by US courts in politically sensitive disputes involving executive authority," Srivastava said.

With both the reciprocal tariffs and the Section 122 tariffs now invalidated by courts, the US tariff system is largely returning to its pre-Trump structure based on standard Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariff rates under the WTO framework. Section 122, allows the president to impose import tariffs of up to 15 per cent for a maximum of 150 days without congressional approval to deal with serious balance-of-payments difficulties. The tariffs had been imposed on February 20, 2026, a few hours after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down reciprocal tariffs. On Section 122 tariffs, the GTRI founder also said that the levies were on weak legal footing because the law was originally enacted to deal with serious balance-of-payments crises and persistent dollar outflows. "However, since 1973 the United States has operated under a free-floating dollar system, where trade imbalances are adjusted through exchange rates and global capital flows rather than import restrictions. The U.S. continues to run large trade deficits while still attracting massive foreign investment because the dollar remains the world's dominant reserve currency," he added. With courts striking down both the reciprocal tariffs and the Section 122 tariffs, the Trump administration is now expected to rely more on targeted trade measures such as Section 301 investigations and Section 232 national-security tariffs. These tools could be used against partner countries for sectors like steel, semiconductors, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals. "The legal uncertainty around US tariffs is also affecting trade negotiations. Malaysia has already walked away from its trade deal with the US, while several other countries are rethinking trade deals with the US," Srivastava said.

BCCI Issues Eight-Page Directive To IPL Franchises; Warns Them Over Honey-Trap Risks



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday issued a directive of eight pages to all the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises, raising concerns around the ongoing breach of protocols in the ongoing tournament. BCCI has issued a set of guidelines which are to be followed by the franchises with immediate effect, according to a report by news agency PTI. The board has asked the teams to be cautious of the targeted honey-trapping and unauthorised movement. "The advisory has been issued in light of certain incidents observed during the ongoing season and is intended to reinforce the standards of professionalism, discipline, security awareness and protocol compliance expected from all stakeholders

associated with IPL." BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a communication to the CEOs of the franchises. "It has come to the attention of the BCCI that certain incidents of misconduct and protocol violation have occurred involving players, support staff and team officials during the course of the current IPL season." Honey trap warning: The most important thing in this letter is a warning about honey traps. The BCCI has warned that there is a possibility of honey traps targeting players during the IPL tournament. It has come to the notice of the board that some players are allowing unauthorised people into hotel rooms without informing the team management. This is very dangerous from a security

point of view, so the board has made it a rule that any guest coming from now on must definitely come with a permission letter. The team management has been instructed to record the details of the guests every day. Vaping banned: Recently, a video of Rajasthan Royals captain Ryan Parag vaping in the dressing room created a huge stir. The BCCI has taken this seriously. There has been a complete ban on the use of vapes and e-cigarettes in dressing rooms, dugouts or team hotels. New guidelines for team owners as well: The BCCI has issued instructions not only to the players but also to the team owners. Players should not be approached, hugged or enter the field to interact

while the match is being broadcast live. The letter explains that the owners should strictly follow the protocols of the Players and Match Officials (PMOA) and should not cause any trouble to the players. Surveillance on unauthorised travel: It has come to the notice of BCCI that many players and support staff are leaving the hotel without informing the security officials. The board has expressed its displeasure over such irregularity. From now on, every time the team leaves the hotel, a movement log must be filled in. A rule has also been implemented that no one should go anywhere without informing the Security Liaison Officer or the Team Integrity Officer. This is very important for the safety of the players, the board

Gold Price Today: Rates Climb In Major Indian Cities, Except Chennai



New Delhi: Amid renewed tensions in West Asia, gold prices recorded an increase across major Indian cities except Chennai on Friday. In the latest trading session, the price of 24 karat gold stands at Rs 1,51,370.00 per 10 grams, registering a hike of Rs 450. Meanwhile, 22 karat gold is priced at Rs 1,39,407.60 per 10 grams, up by Rs 414. The trends were similar in Hyderabad, where the price of 24 karat gold stands at Rs 1,51,370.00 per 10 grams, marking an increase of Rs 440. Meanwhile, the price for 10 grams of 22K gold is Rs 1,39,260.40, marking an increase

of Rs 404.80. The country's financial capital, Mumbai, also reported a rise in gold rates today. The price of 24 karat gold in the city is Rs 1,51,370.00 per 10 grams, up by Rs 440. The 22K gold rate is Rs 1,39,260.40, showing an increase of Rs 404.80. The gold prices in Kolkata also witnessed a marginal rise. The 24K gold rate is Rs 1,51,370.00, reflecting a daily increase of Rs 440, while 22 karat gold is priced at Rs 1,39,260.40, reflecting a daily increase of Rs 404.80. Bengaluru also reported a rise in gold rates on Friday. The price of 24 karat gold in the city is Rs

1,51,370.00 per 10 grams, up by Rs 440. The 22K gold rate is Rs 1,39,260.40, showing an increase of Rs 404.80. In Kochi, the gold prices followed the same trend, with 24K gold priced at Rs 1,51,370.00, reflecting a daily increase of Rs 440, while 22 karat gold is priced at Rs 1,39,260.40, reflecting a daily increase of Rs 404.80. Meanwhile, gold prices followed a downward trend in Chennai, with 24K gold priced at Rs 1,52,190, which reflects a decrease of Rs 1,630. The 22K gold rate in Chennai is Rs 1,42,010, which has increased by Rs 9.17.



V. Ramaraju **P. Vasavi**

A. Venkata Siva & Family

Happy Birthday!

— To —

Avula Pranitha

From

Near & Dear



V. Ramaraju **J. Mahalakshmi** **D. Aruna**

Mendem & Family

HAPPY Anniversary

Mendem. Sister. Parimala

&

Paster. Krupavaram

From

Near & Dear

Raja Shivaji Box Office Collection Day 2: Riteish Deshmukh Starrer Sees Slight Dip After Record Opening

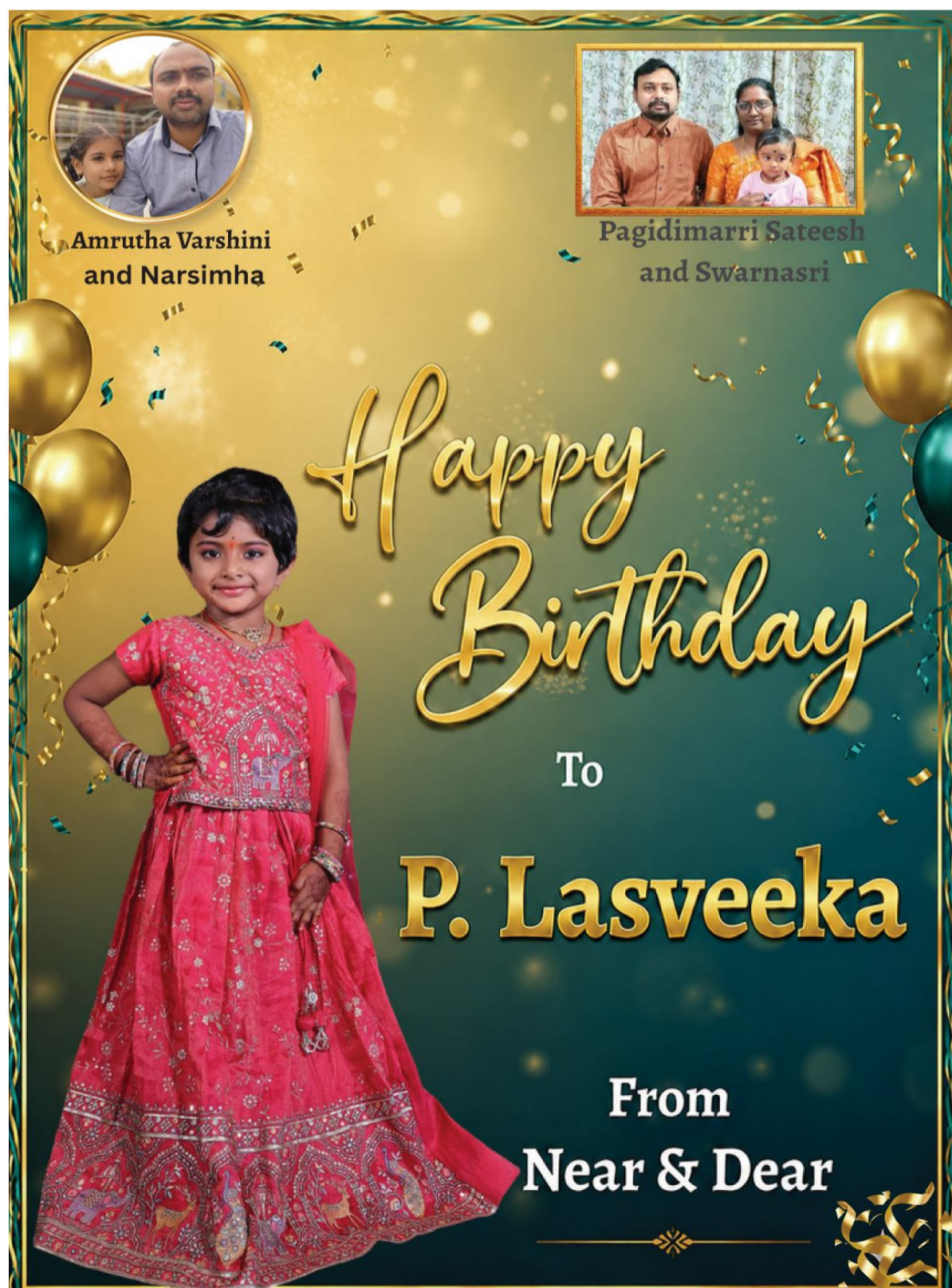


Raja Shivaji opened with massive buzz and strong audience interest, especially in Maharashtra. The film created history even before release with record-breaking advance bookings, setting expectations high for its theatrical run. On day 1, the historical drama delivered an impressive Rs 11.35 crore net, marking the biggest opening ever for a Marathi film. However, day 2 saw a slight dip. The film collected Rs 10.55 crore on its first Saturday, reflecting a 7 percent drop from Friday. While a drop on day 2 is not uncommon, all eyes are now on Sunday to see if the film regains momentum. Day 1 vs Day 2 Performance

Day 1 (Friday): Rs 11.35 crore
 Day 2 (Saturday): Rs 10.55 crore
 Total India Net Collection: Rs 21.90 crore
 Total India Gross Collection: approx. Rs 26.06 crore
 Despite the drop, the overall performance remains strong, especially for a regional-language-driven film. Hindi vs Marathi Contributions success is largely powered by its Marathi version: Marathi: Rs 7.15 crore (Day 2) Hindi: Rs 3.40 crore (Day 2) The dominance of the Marathi version highlights the strong connection with local audiences and the cultural significance of the subject. The Hindi version has also contributed steadily, expanding the film's reach beyond Maharashtra. Record-Breaking Start

Raja Shivaji had already made headlines before release by clocking Rs 5.14 crore in advance bookings. The Marathi version alone contributed a historic Rs 3.60 crore net in pre-sales, surpassing long-standing benchmarks set by earlier Marathi hits. This strong start translated into packed theatres, high occupancy, and a record opening day. The film has effectively raised the commercial ceiling for Marathi cinema, proving that large-scale regional films can deliver big numbers. Clash at the Box Office The film released alongside Ek Din, starring Junaid Khan and Sai Pallavi. However, the clash had little impact on Raja Shivaji's performance. The historical drama

maintained its dominance, while the competing release struggled to gain traction. Industry and Celebrity Reactions Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma praised the film and its lead actor-director. He congratulated the team and highlighted how the film is "slashing and smashing the box office." He also appreciated the performance, saying Riteish looks like Shivaji Maharaj "reincarnated" on screen. Riteish Deshmukh's Emotional Message Riteish Deshmukh expressed gratitude to fans for the overwhelming response. In a heartfelt message, he thanked audiences for their love and support. He also made a special request asking viewers not to record or share scenes



Amrutha Varshini and Narsimha

Pagidimarri Sateesh and Swarnasri

Happy Birthday

To

P. Lasveeka

From

Near & Dear